MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
WATER PLAN PLENARY MEETING
BREAK OUT SESSION: SCOPING NEAR COASTAL RESOURCES
10:15 A.M. – NOON
REDWOOD ROOM, DOUBLE TREE HOTEL SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

- Review the content of the Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan.
- Discuss best options for incorporating near coastal issues into the Water Plan.

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Charlotte Chorneau, CCP Facilitator, opened the session with a review of the agenda and introductions around the room.

Background

Previous updates of the Water Plan did not address management of ocean waters. Update 2013 is now looking at sediment transport, desalination and other near-coastal resource issues. The scope of related concerns could be expansive. The goal of the session is to identify the main concepts that should be addressed in Update 2013. The Ocean Protection Council OPC) Strategic Plan is being used as a starting framework to discuss near coastal issues. Participants will consider how the OPC content could fit within the structure of the Water Plan, as well as identify any missing topics.

Overview: OPC Strategic Plan

Cat Kuhlman, OPC Executive Director, provided an overview of the coordination between OPC, State Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Science Trust and OPC Science Advisory Team. She also highlighted sources of input on the OPC Strategic Plan, which addresses the following focal areas:

- science-based decision-making
- marine ecosystems
- climate change
- land-based impacts on the ocean
- existing and emerging uses of the ocean

Ms. Kuhlman also noted that there are opportunities to leverage sea-level rise and climate change for beneficial outcomes. This is also the case with desalination projects and when looking at land and sea connections.

Scoping of Near Coastal Content

Session participants used a workbook to consider the content associated with the OPC Strategic Plan. Working in small groups, they were asked to respond to the following questions:

- What sections of the OPC Strategic Plan should be incorporated into the Water Plan?
- What content from the OPC Strategic Plan should be modified or expanded for the Water Plan?
- What additional content on Near Coastal Resources should be in the Water Plan, and is not addressed in the OPC Strategic Plan?
- What Near Coastal content should be included in Regional Reports? Who would develop this content?

Report Outs

Land-based Impacts to the Ocean

The Coho recovery program was identified as an effort that reflects the IRWMP in terms of identifying similar issues. This program's investments will total $1.5 billion over ten years. Land-based impacts fit within the Water Plan in the following areas:

- discussion of ecosystem services
- discussion of climate changes
- RMSs: water-dependent recreation, education and outreach

Innovative funding was suggested and the Water Plan was encouraged to look at coastal issues in the IRWMPs. Coastal projects – such as clean beaches, strategic growth council and others – should be prioritized. Resource recovery should be focused on biomass and metal constituents of concern. The State Board's trash policy plan was mentioned as an example of addressing land-based impacts.

Public outreach is also important – the "sink to salmon" campaign serves as an example of this. There is a need to inform the public on how actions affect beaches. The need to identify sources of pollution to beaches was called out. Marine debris is a big issue – this includes microplastics that create "plastic soup." Rules and standards for stormwater are being looked at for Areas of Special Biological Significance, to protect water quality. Hard structures threaten coastal beach recreation sources in terms of sediment transport.

Climate Change

The issue of sea level rise is a significant issue for coastal areas and the location of infrastructure. There may be a gradual or rapid retreat of facilities, such as Morro Bay. It was suggested that coastal homeowners should not be bailed out. Consider retrofitting existing development. There is great intent for recycled water and treatment facilities, yet many of these are located close to

the coast – it might be better to move them closer to end users (inland groups). It was suggested that agencies adopt a single model for sea-level rise and plan facilities locations accordingly. Increased storms and storm severity will increase surges, affecting stormwater management and pollution control. This will also have implications for groundwater management, looking to balance flood control with groundwater recharge opportunities. Water districts are concerned with changes in runoff and snowpack. The IRWM process should require that climate change adaptation and mitigation be addressed to receive further funding.

Existing and Emerging Ocean Uses

Recreation and tourism represent a key ocean use, with large benefits for state and local economies. Recreation activities include human contact with near-shore waters. Navigation at harbors and marinas require dredging activities which can cause problems for environmentally sensitive areas.

Issue 12 (desal) was a bit a bit confusing. Growth inducements were discussed. How does desal impact communities regarding energy impacts and disposal issues? Issue 13 (marine renewable energy) raises the issue of how emerging technologies fit within existing policies. Are there policy targets for desal? What is the level of energy efficiency with desal? Is there a renewable requirement for desal? This led to a discussion on certified renewable energy. Issues 12 and 13 are connected via the desal-energy nexus. There may be opportunities for submerged power generation and desal.

Issue 14 (offshore aquaculture) requires policies to clearly address the issue of aquaculture and native fisheries. What are the impacts of aquaculture? Beaches are sediment-starved,

Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem

Above-stream uses need to be improved to support fisheries standards and life cycles of anadromous fish. Fish are dying. Sediment transport includes contaminants, dredging and mercury. Larger sediments are needed for habitat. Manage sediments in the system. Sustainable seafood is confusing. Improve science to evaluate current conditions of species to monitor and provide a healthy seafood inventory.

Traditional harvesting and access to coastal lands are important issues for Tribes, and need to be called out.

Improve monitoring and regulations to improve seafood health. Use California's Marine Protected Areas to help with water quality issues. Provide protection from storm erosion and oceanic diversion. Provide protection from debris in marine areas. Add objective to 2013 CWP on the importance of water quality, sediments and biomass to the Marine Protected Areas.

Science-based Decision Making

Issue #1 (data sharing): Science-based decision making must include a risk analysis to accommodate unknowns. Decisions must look at the effect of one action on another. Local and Tribal knowledge can inform conditions and trends. Sharing is needed for data, experiences and best practices; include outreach to federal agencies. Look to other forums, including foreign processes, for ideas on data-sharing. Monitoring should inform emergency preparedness systems. Leverage existing data portals (e.g. Water Quality Monitoring Council, CEDEN)

Issue #2 (prioritize data collection): Data collection is costly and resource intensive. Prioritize data collection based on: requirements, critical projects and programs, availability of data from other sources.

Issue #3 (science-based decisions): Look at what feds are doing, such as the Southwestern climate center. There are many environmental documents available in the state. Look at the State Clearinghouse. Develop a coastal Wikipedia and add a discussion blog. The UK has evidence-based documentation. Monitoring approaches may not be compatible with others, take time to make them compatible. Monitoring programs should inform emergency preparedness systems.